

City of St. Helens

265 Strand / PO Box 278
St. Helens, Oregon
97051

SIGNS AND POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IN THE CITY OF ST. HELENS

Political signs do not require a Sign Permit from the City, but are required to comply with the following standards:

- Maximum size: 32 square feet.
- Maximum height: 8 feet.
- Time period allowed: 120 days before a public election or the time the election is called, whichever is earlier, to five days after the public election.
- Must be on private property (**not allowed within a public right-of-way**). Please get consent from the landowner before placing the sign on a property.

In addition to the regulations above, the following is prohibited:

- Illumination of political signs.
- Any political sign within a public right-of-way or on City owned property.
- Any political sign that may be confused with or construed as a traffic control device, or which hides a traffic control device from view.
- Any political sign that will obstruct access to any fire escape or other entrance/exit from a building or exit corridor.
- Any political sign that could impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic on any street, alley, sidewalk, bikeway or similar travel way.
- Any political sign attached to a tree or a plant, a fence or a utility pole.
- Any sign that violates clear vision rules (SHMC Chapter 17.76). Basically this means blocking visibility at intersections (including driveways).

Political signs erected contrary to City regulations may be removed by the City with or without notice. Noncompliant signs may also result in violations to be remedied in the St. Helens Municipal Court.

The standards explained above apply to what are typically considered “political signs.” There are many more sign regulations for permanent and temporary signs, but they generally apply to signs intended for other uses. For more information about the City’s sign regulations please contact the City Planning Department or review Chapter 17.88 of the St. Helens Municipal Code (SHMC) online, at City Hall or at the Library.

To contact the City Planning Department call 503-397-6272 or email jacobg@ci.st-helens.or.us. The City’s website is <http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/>.

This is a guide only and not intended to be a substitute for actual law. Sign content is generally not regulated by the City. The term “political sign” is used here as a common term for explanation purposes only.

March 2012